

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-03 AID-05 HEW-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /069 W

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P R 292139Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2692

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA

ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, RP, MX

SUBJECT: CONTINUING MEXICAN PRESS REACTION, AMB. GREEN

MANILA STATEMENT

REF: (A) MEXICO 1175; (B) MEXICO 1230

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR MEXICAN DAILIES PROVIDED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF GOM MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRESS CONFERENCE IN REACTION TO AMB. GREEN STATEMENT OF MEXICAN POPULATION PROBLEM. BASIC THEMES WERE (A) GOM COMPLETE REJECTION OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN POPULATION POLICY, (B) SUCCESS OF GOM FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS, AND (C) ABSURDITY OF LINKING POPULATION BOMB AND ATOM BOMB. THIS KIND OF REACTION TO U.S. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GOM PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY POPULATION, IS TO BE EXPECTED.
END SUMMARY

2. IN CONTINUING MEDIA REACTION TO JAN. 27 AP REPORT AS
SUMMARIZED BY MEXICAN PRESS THAT "MARSHALL GREEN U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POPULATION COORDINATOR NOTED THAT THE
MEXICAN POPULATION PROBLEM AFFECTS THE UNITED STATES AND
MUST BE CONTAINED IMMEDIATELY," JAN. 29 EXCELSIOR
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RAN FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF GOM MINISTER OF INTERIOR

MOYA PALENCIA'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN REACTION TO THE STATEMENTS. ALL OTHER DAILIES REPORTED SAME AS WELL.

3. MOYA WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT "MEXICO REJECTS ANY INTERVENTIONIST NUANCE, WHETHER OPEN OR VEILED: MEXICAN POPULATION POLICY HAS ITS ORIGIN IN ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND DOES NOT ALLOW FOR INTERVENTION". HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE TWO MILLION BIRTHS YEARLY IN MEXICO WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES IN EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND EMPLOYMENT, "THERE IS A BIG DISTANCE BETWEEN THESE FACTS AND THE ALLEGATION THAT ALL OUR PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED VIA POPULATION...MEXICAN INTERESTS IN THIS AND ANY OTHER PROBLEM ARE ABOVE THE INTERESTS OF OUR NEIGHBORS." MOYA ADDED THAT "THE REAL PROBLEM LIES IN THE INJUSTICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, IN THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE EVERYTHING AND MORE THAT BARELY SUBSIST. MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF HUMANITY IS INSUFFICIENTLY FED AND PRODUCES LEGIONS OF UNEMPLOYED, WHO MOREOVER ARE WITHOUT ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS."

4. MOYA WENT ON TO NOTE THAT THE GOM FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS HAVE HAD INCREASING SUCCESS WITH MORE THAN ONE MILLION WOMEN BEING ATTENDED. HE REFERRED TO THE INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS REACHED THE WHOLE COUNTRY WITH THE STATEMENTS "VAMONOS HACIENDO MENOS PARA VIVIR MEJOR TODOS*" (LET'S BE FEWER SO THAT WE CAN ALL LIVE BETTER) AND "LA FAMILIA PEQUENA VIVE MEJOR" (THE SMALL FAMILY LIVES BETTER) WHICH ARE GEARED TO RAISE THE MEXICAN PEOPLE'S CONSCIOUSNESS WITH REGARD TO THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEM.

5. MOYA AGAIN MADE REFERENCE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FREE WILL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF IT; HE ADDED THAT AMB. GREEN AS A STATED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WAS ECHOING THE NEO-MALTHUSIAN THESES OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AT THE 1974 BUCHAREST POPULATION CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE THIRD WORLD HAD PREVAILED WITH ITS "DEVELOPMENT THESIS."

6. MOYA ALSO COMMENTED ON AMB. GREEN'S REPORTED CONCERN-
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AS REPHRASED BY MOYA - "THAT HE (GREEN) IS AFRAID THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF WE LATIN AMERICANS OR MEXICANS "MAY ONE DAY BLOW UP THE WORLD." MOYA NOTED THAT IT WAS OVERLY SIMPLE TO PIT THE ATOM BOMB AGAINST THE DEMOGRAPHIC BOMB, SINCE THE FORMER IS IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD AND THE LATTER AFFECTED COUNTRIES EITHER DO NOT HAVE SUCH TECHNOLOGY OR USE IT ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

7. EXCELSIOR ALSO REPORTED ON SEPARATE INTERVIEWS WITH THE GOM MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR. GINES NAVARRO AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MEXICAN POPULATION ASSOCIATION, DR. MARTINEZ. DR. GINES NAVARRO NOTED THAT THE MEXICAN GROWTH RATE IS 3.5 PERCENT AND NOT 3.6 AS AMB. GREEN HAD INDICATED. BOTH REPEATED MOYA'S CONCERN THAT THE POPULATION PROBLEM IS STRICTLY MEXICAN.

8. ALSO QUERIED WERE TWO MEXICAN SENATORS WHO REJECTED AMB. GREEN'S RECOMMENDATION THAT MEXICO TAKE FURTHER OFFICIAL MEASURES. ONE OF THE SENATORS COMMENTED (A) THAT THIS IS AN INSOLUBLE PROBLEM, BECAUSE THE MEXICAN CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO DECIDE ON THIS MATTER, (B) THAT AMB. GREEN'S OPINION AND DEEPLY HURT THE MEXICANS.

9. EXCELSIOR ALSO RAN A POLITICAL CARTOON ENTITLED "AMOROUS INTERVENTION" DEPICTING UNCLE SAM WITH ONE FOOT ON THE BED OF A QUAVERING MEXICAN COUPLE. THIS WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "DEMOGRAPHIC SOVEREIGNTY" WHICH STRESSES THE "OFFENSE TO MEXICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND FAMILY DIGNITY" OCCASIONED BY AMB. GREEN'S STATEMENT DRAWING THE INFERENCE THAT IT WAS A CALL FOR FORCED STERILIZATION. THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE POPULATION EXPLOSION IS A CONSEQUENCE OF UNDER-DEVELOPMENT. THE EDITORIAL AGREES THAT ILLEGAL MEXICAN IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S. CAUSES PROBLEMS FOR THE COUNTRY, BUT THE MEXICANS INTERPRET THIS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT PROVERTY IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM AFFECTING BOTH RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES AND WHOSE SOLUTION WILL BENEFIT THE RICH COUNTRIES. FURTHER, THE EDITORIAL BLAMES THE U.S. FOR STIMALATING ILLEGAL MIGRATION BY SEEKING CHEAP LABOR, ALTHOUGH THE MEXICANS DO AGREE THAT THE BRACERO PROBLEM IS A MEXICAN ONE; EVERY MEXICAN

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SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ENJOYABLE LIFE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT WHEN THE MISERY OF THE PRESENT WOULD-BE IMMIGRANTS IS RELIEVED; THE POPULATION EXPLOSION WILL BE REDUCED BECAUSE GREATER EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO MEANS TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF ONE'S FAMILY WILL HAVE LED TO CONSCIOUS PARENTHOOD.

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